



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
(Case No. 00-1314)

1652  
PATENT

#104  
WMS  
10/3/02

IN THE APPLICATION OF:

Pieter Hendrik Pouwels

Serial No. 09/720,583

Filed: U.S. National Phase of International Application No. PCT/EP99/04416

Filed : June 25, 1999

Title: Propionibacterium Vector

Examiner: Malgorzata A.  
Walicka

Group Art Unit: 1652

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

In regard to the above identified application:

1. We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- a. Response to Office Action Mailed August 15, 2002; and
- b. Return Receipt Postcard.

2. With respect to additional fees:

Check in the amount of \$0.00.

3. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No.13-2490. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

4. CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the papers, as described in paragraph 1 hereinabove, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Alison J. Baldwin  
Reg. No. 48,968

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SEP 30 2002

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**RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION  
MAILED AUGUST 15, 2002**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action dated August 15, 2002, the applicant presents the following argument and claim amendment.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

28. (Amended) A process for the production of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> (cobalamin), the process comprising culturing a host cell containing a polynucleotide comprising a sequence capable of hybridizing selectively to

(a) SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complement thereof;

(b) a sequence from the 3.6 kb plasmid of *Propionibacterium freudenreichii* CBS 101022;

(c) a sequence from the 3.6 kb plasmid of *Propionibacterium freudenreichii* CBS 101023; or

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